NUMB. XCVII.

The GUARDIAN.

——Miſerum eſt poſt omnia perdere Naulum. Juv.

Thurſday, July 2. 1713.

SIR,

'I Was left a Thouſand Pounds by an Uncle, 'and being a Man to my thinking very likely 'to get a Rich Widow, I laid aſide all 'Thoughts of making my Fortune any o-'ther way, and without Loſs of Time made my 'Applications to one who had buried her Huſ-'band about a Week before. By the help of ſome 'of her She Friends, who were my Relations, I got 'into her Company when ſhe would ſee no Man 'beſides my ſelf and her Lawyer, who is a little, 'rivelled, ſpindle-ſhanked Gentleman, and married 'to boot, ſo that I had no reaſon to fear him. 'Upon my firſt ſeeing her, ſhe ſaid in Converſation 'within my hearing, that ſhe thought a pale Com-'plexion the moſt agreeable either in Man or Wo-'man: Now you muſt know, Sir, my Face is as 'white as Chalk. This gave me ſome Encourage-'ment, ſo that to mend the Matter I bought a fine 'Flaxen long Wig that coſt me thirty Guineas, and 'found an Opportunity of ſeeing her in it the next 'Day. She then let drop ſome Expreſſions about 'an Agate Snuff-Box. I immediately took the 'Hint and bought one, being unwilling to omit 'any thing that might make me deſireable in her 'Eyes. I was betrayed after the ſame manner into 'a Brocade Waſtcoat, a Sword Knot, a pair of Sil-'ver fringed Gloves, and a Diamond Ring. But 'whether out of Fickleneſs, or a Deſign upon me, 'I can't tell; but I found by her Diſcourſe, that 'what ſhe liked one Day ſhe diſliked another: So 'that in ſix Months ſpace I was forced to equip my 'ſelf above a dozen times. As I told you before, I 'took her Hints at a diſtance, for I could never 'find an Opportunity of talking with her directly 'to the Point. All this time, however, I was al-'lowed the utmoſt Familiarities with her Lap-Dog, 'and have played with it above an Hour together, 'without receiving the leaſt Reprimand, and had 'many other Marks of Favour ſhown me, which I 'thought amounted to a Promiſe. If ſhe chanced 'to drop her Fan, ſhe received it from my Hands 'with great Civility. If ſhe wanted any thing I 'reached it for her. I have filled her Tea-pot a-'bove an hundred times, and have afterwards re-'ceived a Diſh of it from her own Hands. Now, 'Sir, do you judge if after ſuch Encouragements 'ſhe was not obliged to marry me. I forgot to 'tell you that I kept a Chair by the Week, on pur-'poſe to carry me thither and back again. Not 'to trouble you with a long Letter, in the ſpace 'of about a Twelvemonth I have run out of my 'whole Thouſand Pound upon her, having laid out 'the laſt fifty in a new Suit of Cloaths, in which I 'was reſolved to receive her final Anſwer, which 'amounted to this, That ſhe was engaged to ano-'ther; That ſhe never dreamt I had any ſuch 'thing in my Head as Marriage; and that ſhe thought 'I had frequented her Houſe only becauſe I loved 'to be in Company with my Relations. This, you 'know, Sir, is uſing a Man like a Fool, and ſo I 'told her; but the worſt of it is, that I have ſpent 'my Fortune to no purpoſe. All therefore that I 'deſire of you is, to tell me whether upon exhibi-'ting the ſeveral Particulars which I have here re-'lated to you, I may not ſue her for Damages in 'a Court of Juſtice. Your Advice in this par-'ticular will very much oblige

Your moſt humble Admirer,

Simon Softly.

Before

(Price Two Pence.)